

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 7, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Rep. Gary Hebl, (608) 266-7678

HEBL INTRODUCES BILL TO PROVIDE RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR VETERANS

AB 300 Will Allow Veterans to Claim Credit under the WRS for Military Service

(MADISON) – Rep. Gary Hebl announced today legislation he authored – which would provide greater opportunities for returning veterans to receive creditable service under the Wisconsin Retirement System – has been formally introduced and referred to the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

Assembly Bill 300 would update Wisconsin statutes to allow creditable military service under the Wisconsin Retirement System for veterans who served after the Vietnam War. Current state law offers creditable service only for military service prior to 1974.

"AB 300 will have real-life benefits for veterans across our state who served their country and now serve as state employees," Hebl said. "This bill will help show our gratitude to veterans by offering creditable service in the WRS for the years they spent in active duty."

The pre-1974 requirement was written into law nearly 35 years ago. Hebl said that in order to create a fair and equitable system and to show proper appreciation to veterans who have served since 1974, Wisconsin should update the statute.

"As a state, Wisconsin has acknowledged our soldiers' work by providing creditable military service for state workers who served their country," Hebl said. "However, for veterans that enter the WRS, current law only allows creditable military service for service prior to 1974. That means that veterans who served in combat in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other military conflicts would not be able to claim this credit. AB 300 will update the law to reflect the legislature's commitment to all our veterans."

Hebl said the issue came to his attention after constituents raised awareness about the dated law.